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Higher education measures progress in "report card"

Much of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's April meeting, hosted by Logan University in Chesterfield, was devoted to various reports on institutional and system-wide performance.

During the "report card" meeting, the Coordinating Board received the annual progress report on the statewide higher education public policy initiatives and goals established in 1996. The report focuses on progress made in improving the access, quality and efficiency of Missouri's higher education system.

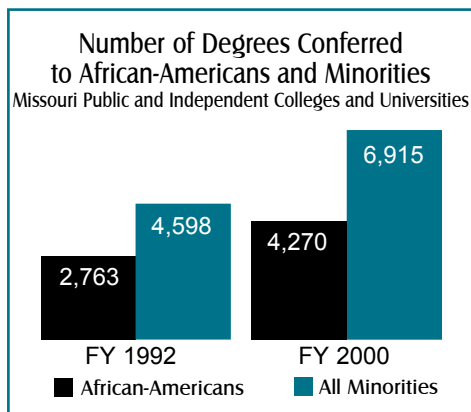


Dr. William Ramsey, vice president for academic affairs, Logan University (left) and Dr. George Goodman, Logan University president (right), welcome Dr. Kala M. Stroup, commissioner of higher education, to campus for the April 12 Coordinating Board for Higher Education meeting.

Access

According to the report, while the Coordinating Board's recommended high school core curriculum and the Advanced Placement Program have improved student preparation for higher education, data on the educational attainment of Missourians indicate that more effort is needed to ensure that all Missouri students are prepared to succeed in higher education or the workforce.

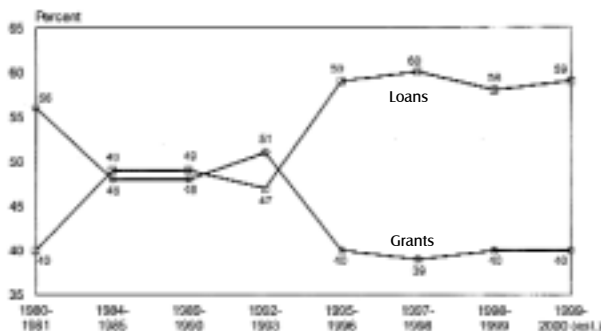
The state's system of higher education has made some progress in improving its accessibility and is educating and graduating increasing numbers of students. Between FY 1992 and FY 2000, full-time undergraduate enrollment in the state's public and independent colleges and universities increased by 6,000



"REPORT CARD," from page 1

students, and the number of degrees conferred increased by more than 14 percent. In that same time, the number of degrees conferred to minorities increased from 4,598 to 6,915 (an increase of 50 percent) and from 2,763 to 4,270 for African-Americans (a 55 percent increase).

Grants and Loans as Proportion of Total Student Financial Assistance



Source: The College Board, "Trends in Student Aid 2000"

However, affordability is a significant factor in accessing higher education; and the report shows that despite increased state funding for student financial assistance (from \$21 million in FY 1993 to \$54 million in FY 2001), many low- and middle-income students still struggle to finance higher education. In fact, students' dependence on loans has increased from 40 percent in FY 1981 to an estimated 59 percent in FY 2000 as the proportion of the cost of college covered by a maximum federal Pell Grant declined from 83 percent in FY 1980 to just 39 percent in FY 2000.

Quality

Progress toward improving the quality of Missouri higher education is illustrated by measures of institutional and student performance.

All Missouri public colleges and universities have assessment programs that measure student performance in general education, and most have assessment programs that measure baccalaureate students' performance in their majors.

Six of Missouri's 13 public four-year campuses use nationally normed assessments of general education for at least 90 percent of their graduates. At all but one of these institutions, at least half of the tested graduates scored at the 50th percentile or higher.

Of the 13 institutions offering associate of arts degrees, six use nationally normed assessments of general education

for at least 90 percent of their graduates. At 10 institutions, at least half of the tested graduates scored at the 50th percentile or higher.

Efficiency

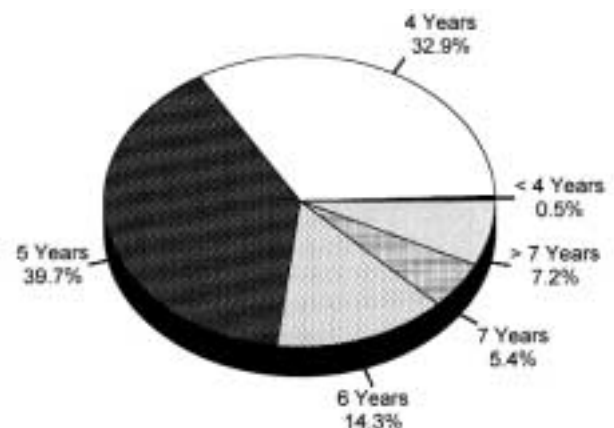
One important measure of Missouri higher education's efficiency is graduation rates. The overall six-year graduation rate for the state's public four-year institutions is 52 percent. The University of Missouri-Columbia has met the 65 percent graduation rate goal for institutions with selective admissions; and Truman State University, with a graduation rate of 71 percent, is approaching the goal of 75 percent for highly selective admissions institutions.

Missouri's system of higher education also has worked to improve its efficiency and quality through mission differentiation and the use of technology. Institutions are differentiated in terms of their declared missions, admissions selectivity, programmatic themes and levels of degrees offered, among other aspects.

Technology-related initiatives to improve efficiency include MOREnet, MOBIUS and the Missouri Learners' Network. These initiatives allow Missouri's colleges and universities to share resources as they work to meet Missourians' educational needs.

While the findings of the 2001 progress report demonstrate significant progress in certain areas, they also highlight challenges that remain. The report will provide a baseline of information as Missouri higher education builds on the accomplishments of recent years and pushes for further improvement to meet the future educational needs of Missourians under The Coordinated Plan for Missouri Higher Education. 🍎

Time to Completion of Baccalaureate Degree 1999



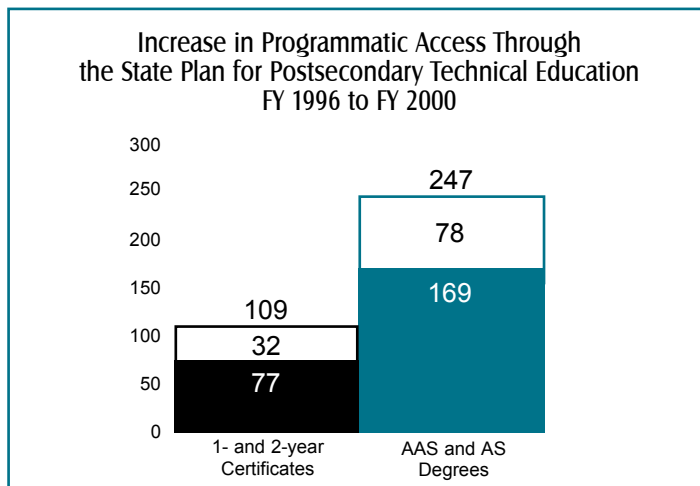
Coordinating Board reviews results of technical education investment

After five years of funding from the Missouri General Assembly, the State Plan for Postsecondary Technical Education has shown results.

During its April meeting, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education received a report on the results of the state's investment in postsecondary technical education, which show improvements in access to targeted technical programs; student participation, employment and wages; and program quality.

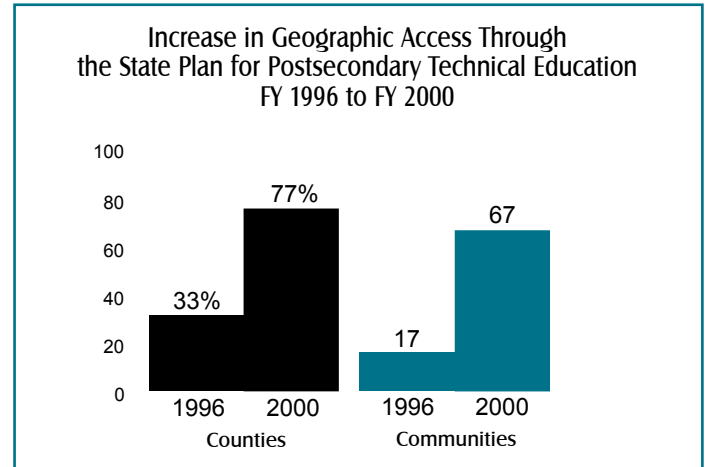
Access

Since FY 1996, 100 certificate, associate of science and associate of applied science degree programs; 12 baccalaureate degree programs; 11 master's degree



programs and one doctoral degree program have been developed in targeted technical fields such as computer information systems, mechanics and repair, engineering-related technologies and precision production trades.

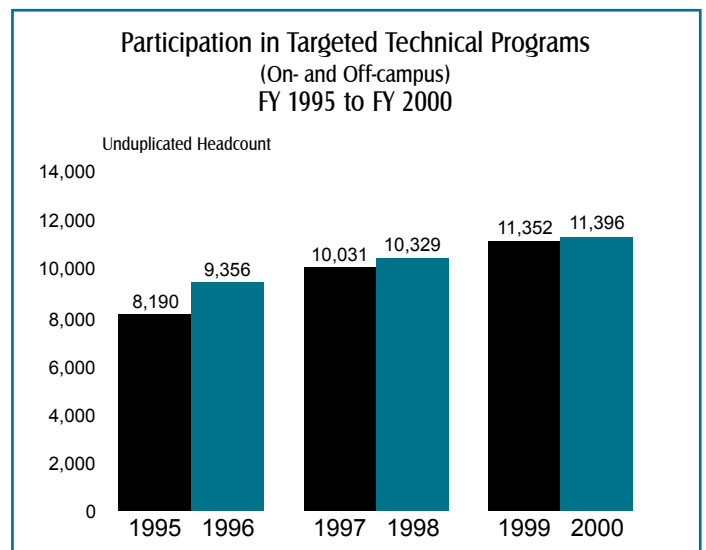
The number of Missouri communities providing access to such programs increased from 17 in FY 1996 to 67 by the end of FY 2000. These access points are located throughout the service regions of the 12 community colleges and include the community colleges, Linn State Technical College, Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains, Missouri Western State College, Southeast Missouri State University, Central Missouri State University, the University of Missouri-Rolla, private career schools, comprehensive high schools and area vocational technical schools.



Contractual partnerships and formal transfer agreements among the state's area vocational technical schools, community colleges, private career schools and institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees also have helped increase opportunities for Missourians to continue their education in technical fields.

Participation

The number of Missouri public high school graduates enrolling in targeted technical programs increased 22 percent between FY 1996 and FY 2000. Enrollment in computer information systems increased 63 percent, in engineering-related technologies 18 percent, in mechanics



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and repair technologies 263 percent and in precision production trades 35 percent.

The number of students completing coursework in targeted technical programs increased 39 percent since FY 1995.

Student Success

Of a sample of 1,341 students graduating in FY 1999 from targeted technical certificate, AS and AAS degree programs, 74.6 percent reported that they found employment or pursued additional education directly relating to their technical training.

In addition, FY 1998 graduates from targeted technical certificate, AS, AAS and baccalaureate degree programs generally earned wages that were higher than the average wages of non-technical graduates from Missouri's public institutions. For example, technical AAS degree graduates earned \$26,802 on average, compared to \$22,448 for non-technical associate degree graduates. Those receiving technology-related baccalaureate degrees earned \$36,831 on average, compared to \$24,476 for graduates in non-technical fields.

Program Quality

The recent increase in participation in technical education programs makes the assurance of quality programs even more important.

Technical education program quality has been enhanced through partnerships with union and non-union apprenticeship training schools. Twelve public colleges and universities have working partnerships with 204 labor union apprenticeship training schools in Missouri. Five community colleges have received Coordinating Board approval to offer the AAS degree in apprenticeship

specialties, which enables labor union apprentices and journeymen to apply apprenticeship training competencies toward an AAS degree. On average, apprentices and journeymen can expect to convert apprenticeship training to 30 credit hours toward targeted AAS degree programs.

In addition, Missouri's public two-year institutions and Missouri Western State College now use industry-based skill assessment for AS and AAS graduates in 41 of their targeted technical programs. Institutions also are implementing plans to renew or achieve national or industry-based accreditation for targeted technical programs added since FY 1997. After becoming a part of Missouri's system of higher education in 1995, Linn State Technical College received initial accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. However, according to the April report, more postsecondary institutions must work toward the national accreditation of targeted technical programs and require graduates to pass licensure, registration, certification or industry-based exams.

While Missouri's system of postsecondary technical education has shown progress in many performance measures, certain issues still need improvement and discussion. With the fifth and final installment of new state appropriations for the State Plan for Postsecondary Technical Education in FY 2001, the colleges and universities now have significant funds in their base budgets to address the remaining challenges and to sustain their efforts to implement a statewide system of postsecondary technical education that responds to the needs of Missouri employers for a highly skilled workforce. 🍷

**Congratulations to Longview Community College —
named the two-year College of the Year for its
writing across the curriculum program in the 2001
edition of The Best College for You, published
by TIME magazine and The Princeton Review.**

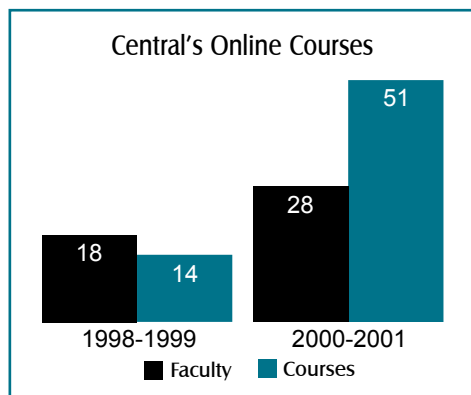
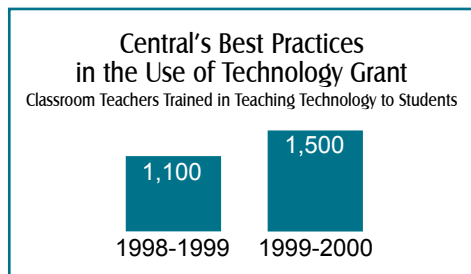
Institutions report mission enhancement results

Central Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University and Southeast Missouri State University presented their results from the first cycle of mission enhancement to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education during its April 12 meeting.

These three institutions developed mission enhancement plans in 1996 and began receiving implementation funding in FY 1998. In October 1999, the Coordinating Board recommended the fourth and final year of funding for their mission enhancement initiatives.

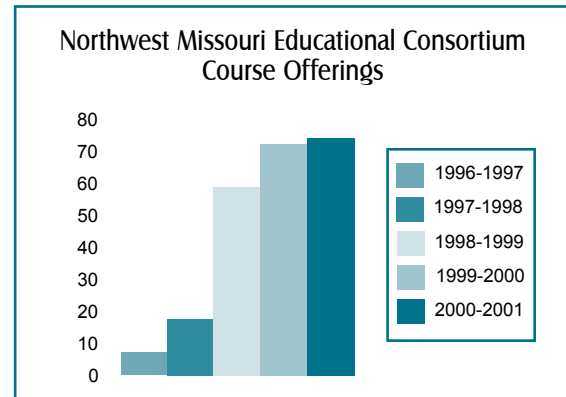
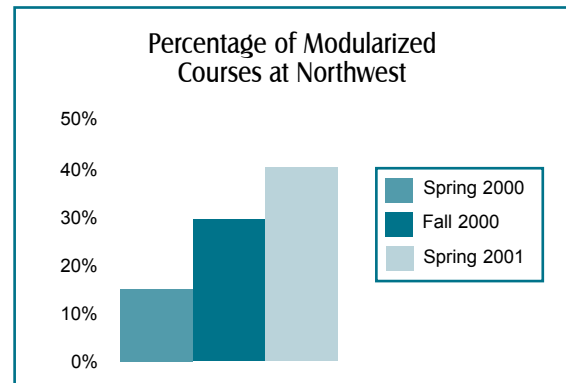
Central Missouri State University

Through mission enhancement funding, Central Missouri State University began new academic programs in advanced applied science and technology, improved faculty knowledge and skills in the application of technology in the classroom, enhanced its telecommunications network and public television station and educated more baccalaureate- and master's-level students in critical technical fields through its statewide mission in applied science and technology.



Northwest Missouri State University

Northwest Missouri State University opened the Center for Information Technology in Education to expand the use of information technology to accelerate learning; launched the Missouri Academy for Science,



Mathematics and Computing to provide high-achieving high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to begin their college coursework early; won the Missouri Quality Award; continued to apply quality concepts using the Baldrige Award criteria and facilitated the expansion of educational opportunities provided by the Northwest Missouri Educational Consortium.

Southeast Missouri State University

Southeast Missouri State University used its mission enhancement funding to involve a larger portion of its graduates in experiential learning opportunities; increase

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MOSTARS presents annual report, reorganization plan

In an annual report presented during the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's April 12 meeting, Lynn Hearn, assistant commissioner for student assistance and services, provided an overview of recent MOSTARS activities as well as a plan for the reorganization and management of MOSTARS services.

Student Financial Assistance

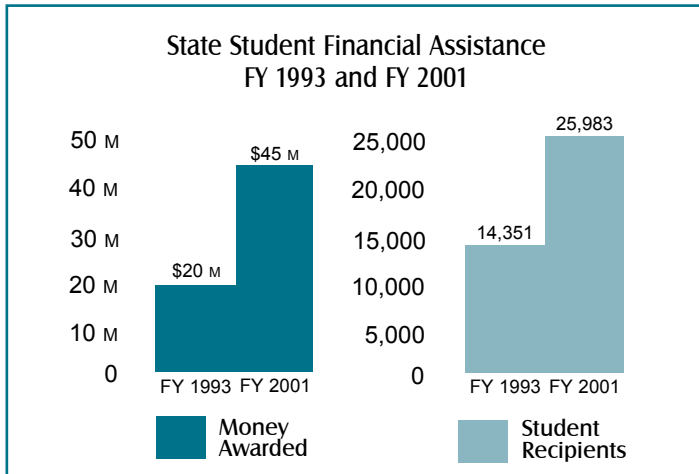
MOSTARS administers state and federal student financial assistance programs that help students access Missouri's system of higher education. The amount of funding awarded to students continues to increase. The state increased its funding commitment for student financial assistance from \$20 million in FY 1993 to \$45 million in FY 2001. With the addition of the

student financial assistance funds to Missouri postsecondary institutions electronically.

CLIPSLINK allows student borrowers, institutions and lenders to access Missouri Student Loan Program records online and soon will include payment history data for all of the state student financial assistance programs as well.

In addition to its free publications and on-site assistance, MOSTARS' new Internet-based procedures help financial aid personnel and lenders administer student assistance programs more effectively and efficiently.

MOSTARS plans to implement new web-based initiatives that will allow the processing of payment records and the transmission of student record data for all state student financial assistance programs electronically, eliminating the paper processes for these programs.



Missouri College Guarantee Program in 1999, Missouri's most financially needy students can receive a total of \$4,600 in need-based financial assistance.

Customer Service and Support

As the amount of student financial assistance administered by MOSTARS increases each year, MOSTARS regularly works to improve its service and support to help college financial aid administrators, high school counselors, lenders, students and others access financial assistance information more easily.

Recent improvements have involved new electronic products and services. MOSTARS now delivers all state

Early Awareness and Outreach

MOSTARS collaborates with a number of organizations – including the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; ACT, Inc.; individual colleges and universities; K-12 school districts and TRIO programs – in its efforts to increase the college attendance and success rates of Missouri students, particularly those from underrepresented groups and low-income families.

In the fall of 2000, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Missouri \$7.5 million in federal funding for programs designed to increase the high school graduation and college attendance of students from Missouri middle schools with high poverty and dropout rates. MOSTARS received \$1,095,833 for the first year of a five-year grant under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs initiative.

The GEAR UP Missouri Project involves after-school programs and summer institutes offering academic support and personal enrichment for more than 3,000 sixth grade students at 20 middle schools in Kansas City, St. Louis and southeast Missouri.

The project partners will assist students in preparing for college as they advance through middle and high school. The interventions will include mentoring, academic support and information about college admission and financial assistance opportunities as well as parent

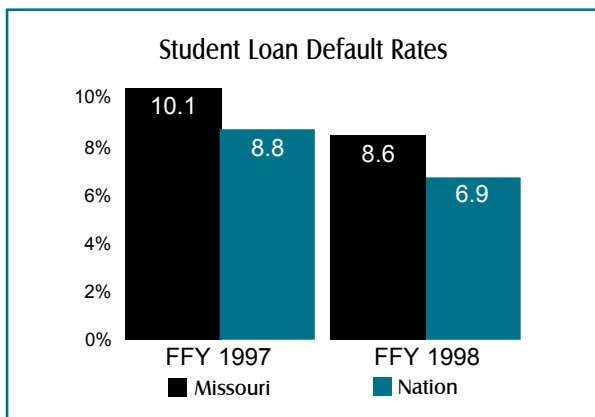
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education and teacher professional development. In addition, the GEAR UP Missouri project includes a scholarship that will provide an additional incentive for GEAR UP students to attend a Missouri college or university.

Default Prevention and Debt Management

Missouri's student loan default rate continues to decline, dropping from 10.1 percent in FFY 1997 to 8.6 percent in FFY 1998. However, Missouri's rate remains above the national rate; and, with students' increased dependence on loans, Missouri colleges and universities must be proactive in addressing the impact of student loan defaults on their campuses.



**MSLP Loans
Guaranteed
FFY 2000**

\$371 million
102,821 Student Borrowers

To help, MOSTARS has launched student loan default prevention and debt management initiatives to:

- increase awareness of financing options for postsecondary education,
- reduce student loan indebtedness,
- increase awareness of the responsibilities and consequences of student loan borrowing and default and
- reduce consumer debt among postsecondary students.

Through its new default prevention and debt management program, MOSTARS will work on site at individual campuses to develop consumer education

programs about student loan borrowing and debt management for students, families and at-risk borrowers.

Because research shows that students who complete their degrees or remain continuously enrolled are less likely to default on their student loans, MOSTARS will work with institutions to provide comprehensive information and services to students who do not complete their programs of study.

In addition, MOSTARS has begun a grant program for institutions with 1997 or 1998 cohort default rates higher than 10 percent. These institutions may apply for grants to fund student retention initiatives or other student loan default prevention and debt management programs.

Through additional research, MOSTARS hopes to track patterns of student participation in Missouri higher education and to develop profiles of student financial assistance recipients. Findings of the research will help MOSTARS identify successful programs that can be replicated by other institutions.

Reorganization Plan

With guidance from the MOSTARS Advisory Board as well as its institutional and lending clients, MOSTARS is developing a three-year reorganization plan to more fully integrate its programs and services in support of its goals of ensuring that all qualified Missourians have access to affordable postsecondary education and becoming the single point of contact for student services.

A recent management review by KPMG Consulting reinforced the need to enhance MOSTARS' current organizational structure, management and services. KPMG proposed an organization and management structure consistent with MOSTARS' charge to integrate core student financial assistance services.

The organizational structure under consideration includes five key areas:

- student financial assistance;
- legal affairs;
- early awareness and outreach;
- lender, institution and student services and
- budget and policy development.

The first step in implementing the plan was the appointment of Lynn Hearnese as the assistant commissioner for student assistance and services and director of MOSTARS. She will lead the reorganization to improve MOSTARS' student assistance services through its full implementation in 2005. 🍷

Missouri launches campus compact

With the official signing held in conjunction with the December 2000 Governor's Conference on Higher Education, Missouri became the 23rd state to join a national coalition of campus compacts committed to helping students develop the values and skills of citizenship through participation in public and community service.

Twenty-six public and independent, two-year and four-year college and universities signed on as chartering members of the Missouri Campus Compact. Southwest Missouri State University oversees the compact under the direction of an executive committee consisting of the presidents of one public four-year, one public two-year and one independent institution.

The goals of the Missouri Campus Compact include:

- deepening higher education's understanding of how and why to be an engaged campus;
- building and strengthening Campus Compact's national and state organizational capacity as a powerful leader for civic education;
- playing a lead role in helping campuses develop, document and model best practices in the scholarship of engagement;
- building the capacity of communities to access and play a central role in higher education's civic engagement and



From left: Dr. David Dixon, assistant to the president, Southwest Missouri State University; Dr. Marianne Inman, president, Central Methodist College and Dr. Lynn Suydam, president, St. Louis Community College at Meramec launch the Missouri Campus Compact.

- increasing the national visibility and influence of Campus Compact and its mission.

In October 2000, the Coordinating Board approved a state funding request of \$216,800 for the Missouri Campus Compact. With state funding unlikely in FY 2002, the compact has obtained a \$100,000 grant from the Kauffman Foundation, most of which will be used to fund smaller grants to service learning programs established by institutions, faculty and students. 🍏

Committee working to establish Lake of the Ozarks Community College

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education received notification that a steering committee has begun the process of reviewing the feasibility of a new community college taxing district in the Lake of the Ozarks region. Pending the results of a petition drive

and feasibility study, a referendum may go before voters in the participating school districts in April 2003. In the meantime, the Coordinating Board has agreed to honor the committee's request that no additional "HB 1456" sites or expansion of services be allowed in the area. 🍏

MO\$T Program recognized as one of favorites in nation

Money Magazine recognized the Missouri Saving for Tuition Program as one of its five favorite higher education savings programs in the nation.

Money Magazine evaluated state-sponsored higher education savings plans in its May issue. Missouri's plan, known as MO\$T, was highlighted as one of the leading in the nation because of its low fees, three investment options and large state income tax deduction.

The MO\$T Program allows participants to choose one of three investment options: the managed allocation option, the guaranteed option or the 100 percent equity option.

The amount contributed to any of the three options (up to a maximum of \$8,000 per taxpayer each year)

can be deducted from Missouri taxable income. The investment earnings on the money are allowed to build on both a federal and state tax-favored basis. When the beneficiary is ready to go to college, the account can be used to pay for qualified educational expenses at eligible schools anywhere in the country. The earnings will be exempt from Missouri income taxes. Federal income taxes are deferred until the money is withdrawn and then are taxed at the student beneficiary's rate.

Currently, the MO\$T program has 14,000 accounts totaling over \$40 million.

For more information about MO\$T, call 1-888-414-MOST or visit the program's web site at www.missourimost.org. 🍏

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Southeast's New Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Programs

BS in Manufacturing Engineering Technology
MS in Industrial Management
MS in Engineering Management (in cooperation with UM-Rolla)

educational access through off-campus centers, telecommunications and special programs for underrepresented groups; and build a polytechnic institute with a Center of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology to serve existing industry and encourage industrial development in the region.

Southeast's Increased Access Through Telecommunications

ITV and Web Enrollment

| | Enrollments | Credit Hours |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1996-1997 | 183 | 549 |
| 1997-1998 | 150 | 450 |
| 1998-1999 | 829 | 2,401 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,269 | 3,746 |
| 2000-2001 | 1,708 | 5,054 |

After reporting their respective mission enhancement results to the Coordinating Board, Central, Northwest and Southeast are now beginning the second mission review cycle. 🍏

CBHE *Calendar*

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings

June 7, 2001
Crowder College, Neosho

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings

October 11, 2001
Linn State Technical College,
Linn

Governor's Conference and CBHE Meeting

December 6, 2001
Marriott Downtown,
Kansas City

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings and Transfer and Articulation Conference

February 7, 2002
Location to be determined

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings

April 11, 2002
Columbia College,
Columbia

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings

June 6, 2002
East Central College,
Union

CBHE and Presidential Advisory Committee Meetings

October 10, 2002
Harris-Stowe State College,
St. Louis

Governor's Conference and CBHE Meeting

December 5, 2002
Springfield

CBHE *News*

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FIRST CLASS

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